

## DR. VAN DYKE GETS FRENCH DECORATION

Legion of Honor Cross Is Awarded for "Labors for Liberty."

ADOPT TOWNS, HE SAYS

Alexander J. Hemphill Also Receives Official Tribute From France.

Henry van Dyke, who besides having been Ambassador to Holland during the early days of the war is a director of the Societe des Villages Liberes, which was organized by Miss Belle Skinner to aid in the rebuilding of devastated France, was decorated with the cross of commander of the Legion of Honor at a meeting of the Societe at the Hotel Biltmore yesterday. Dr. van Dyke looked as pleased as a child as Major Alexander Carrel, commander of the legion, hung the glittering cross on its broad red ribbon around his neck, and soon as the ceremonies were over he was heard seeking the expert advice of Marcel Knecht and other Frenchmen as to what button he should wear with it. "I'd like to wear it all the time," he said. "But I won't wear it in the street—just wear it on festive occasions, you know."

To Major Carrel he made a formal response of gratitude, in the course of which he declared himself in favor of a League of Nations to enforce peace "which shall not be against the Constitution of the United States and I do not believe," he added, "that the present one is against it."

Pays Tribute to France. The doctor confessed that he really didn't know exactly what to say about the cross, but he supposed he might take it as an outward and visible sign of some inward and spiritual grace which he should try to wear near his heart.

"Where I have always worn the name of France," he told the representatives of the country. To the French, he said, the civilized world owed a debt of gratitude for their marvelous resistance to the Boche in the battle of the Marne. "They saved the world for mankind," he observed, "and I suppose we are mankind, though some of our Senators seem to forget it."

In praising Miss Skinner for her work and that of her colleagues of the Societe des Villages Liberes, Dr. van Dyke said he did wish that American cities would adopt the devastated towns of France, each city taking some special town and restoring it.

"I'm not in favor of abstract, highly organized charity," he said. "I like concrete help. New York should begin by adopting Verdun. I have been in Verdun before the war, when she was a prosperous, happy city of 20,000 souls. Now I doubt if such ruins as the Boche has left at Verdun would shelter 1,000 persons. I'd like to see New York assume the duty of restoring Verdun, the scene of such heroic sacrifices on the part of the French, and then I'd like to see other American cities follow suit, and not just out of ancient gratitude to Lafayette; it would be to our interest to forward the stability and good fortunes of France."

"France must be restored and France must have adequate frontiers. Let us not make the mistake again of 1870, and leave France at the mercy of the Hun. France must have a merely Alsace and Lorraine—that is but a simple garden variety of justice—but France must have a frontier by which she can defend herself. Either the Rhine must mark the boundary or there must be a buffer state. Never again must France be left open to those outrages the effect of which those who have not seen the devastated regions can never realize, sympathetic though they may be."

Labors for Liberty. Major Carrel, in presenting the cross to Dr. van Dyke, told him that France looked on him as one of the worthiest representatives of the Mayflower.

"France," he said, "remembers not only your Ambassadorship in Holland, close to the battlefields, and your labors for liberty after you returned to the United States, when you came as the official missionary of the University of Princeton. You were the precursor of another great missionary of your colleagues, a former president of Princeton, your friend, President Wilson, who is endeavoring with Clemenceau and the other Allies to effect a just and lasting peace. In the name of the President of the French Republic I am proud to confer upon you the cross of commander of the Legion of Honor."

Dr. van Dyke, who is the only one who got a decoration yesterday, Major Carrel pinned another one on the breast of Alexander J. Hemphill, chairman of the Guaranty Trust Company, who is treasurer of the Societe des Villages Liberes. Mr. Hemphill didn't make a speech, probably reflecting that as it

was getting near the dinner hour and there had been very much oratory he might as well just make a bow and let it go at that.

Consul-General Liebert made the first speech of the day and announced that at a meeting held two weeks ago it was decided to centralize the reconstruction committees formed by Miss Skinner, Miss Anne Morgan and others to put them under one business head in order to bring results desired. The charitable part would go on under the various committees, he said, but to that would be added the efficient direction of a common head. Miss Skinner seemed much surprised at this announcement and said to reporters that no such consolidation was thought of by her committee, at least. At the meeting referred to, she said, neither she nor any representative of the Societe des Villages Liberes was present and neither did any one from the Committee on Devastated France, Miss Morgan's organization, attend.

Plan to Achieve Results. "Of course we work under the French Government," she said, "but we are able to achieve results without any French consolidation. Such an arrangement would take the life and spirit, the personal element which means so much, out of our work. Why, the Red Cross did not succeed in absorbing the smaller societies when some time ago it proposed such a plan. They insisted on going on as entities, though glad to cooperate with the Red Cross."

Most of the speakers who came after the Consul-General took a whack at his plan. Martin Littleton especially came out strong for the individualistic way of doing things. Mr. Littleton, who was introduced by former Governor Whitman, said that he was one who had given "more than most of us to the cause of freedom" (Mr. Littleton's son was killed in France), devoted part of his speech to genial comments on the investigations and recommendations that are following the war.

"We are now entering upon the autopsy of the war. We are beginning the mutually accusative period. There is nothing new in that. Why, even Lafayette and those other heroes of France who came to aid America in her need were accused and traduced, first in France and then in America. There was just as much 'investigating' in those days. Democracy would die if we ceased to criminate and recriminate." Referring to the League of Nations Mr. Littleton warily refused to commit himself. "What I hear every man in favor of a League of Nations if he can be allowed to write it himself," he observed.

A group of sailors and a squad of men from the Twenty-seventh Division, wearing their tin hats and field equipment, marched in at the beginning of the ceremonies, two of their men carrying French and American flags. The commander of the Twenty-seventh, Gen. O'Ryan, was on the platform and made a brief and soldierly speech, telling the audience that if they wanted to know the truth about German atrocities, about their deliberate destruction of French factories and agriculture and all that goes to make up a country, about the desolation of the villages they razed, all they had to do was talk with the American soldier.

French Endurance Praised. "We entered the war late," he said. "We had a lookin, and frankly we had all we wanted. But we never ceased to marvel that human beings could endure, as the French endured, those horrors for four long years."

Then Gen. O'Ryan paid a heartfelt tribute to the women of France for their hospitality to the American soldier, and begged American women to reciprocate by being just as nice as they could to the French officers and soldiers over here.

"When we went to France of course we were the new thing," he said, "and those French women actually neglected their own men to make much of our men."

Street Men and Canvasers Sell the OFFICIAL 27th N. Y. Div., U. S. A. Welcome Home Badge and Banner

As Authorized and Approved by Major General John F. O'Ryan, Com. Big Money Makers. Get Your Stocks Now for Monday and Tuesday. First List. L. Roberts Wallen Authorized Distributor. Phone Bryant 1367 33 West 34th St., New York City. Open Sunday, 1 to 5 P. M. at 151 West 45th St.

STORE CLOSED TUESDAY, MARCH 25TH.

Vantines The Oriental Store.

Announce, beginning to-morrow, a Sale of Men's Chinese Pongee Silk Shirts At \$3.95

An exceptional opportunity to secure men's negligee shirts of Imported Chinese pongee silk, natural color, in sizes from 14 to 16½, at a price less than is usually asked for the silk alone. These shirts are made especially to our order by an exclusive Fifth Avenue shirt maker from Vantine quality Chinese pongee silk, imported by us direct from the Orient, and are sold regularly by us at \$5.50 each.

As quantity is limited an early selection is advisable.

A. A. VANTINE & CO. Inc. Fifth Avenue & 39th Street, New York

doughboys and officers. I could but wonder at those women, at their goodness and gracious hospitality to the Americans quartered in their homes. The American soldier has his habits, which we understand, but which were not always intelligible to the French, and those women by their patience made it possible to establish the entire cordial in an astonishingly short time.

"You know when people make week end visits here you are glad to welcome them, but also you are glad to see them go. Over there it was no week end business but a continuous performance. No sooner did one lot of troops move on than another lot came, and the women made them all welcome, at the same time carrying on their own work and the work of their men who were absent in the field."

Marcel Knecht organized the meeting. There was singing by Mme. Delaunay of the Metropolitan Opera company.

COURT YIELDS TO AUCTION. Morechauser Will Adjourn Session to Attend Cattle Sale.

So he can go to an auction sale of cattle Justice Joseph Morechauser of the Supreme Court, now sitting in Putnam county, has decided to adjourn court on Friday and attend the venue on the farm of ex-Assemblyman John R. Yale at Ludingtonville on that day. Mr. Yale has sold his farm to S. W. Huff, president of the Third Avenue Railway Company of this city, who is to have his summer home there.

State Senator James Towne, as auctioneer for Mr. Yale, is to "knock down" eighty cows and seven horses on the auction block. As many takersmen on the jury panels asked to be excused to the auction Judge Morechauser decided to close court then and go along too, as he is a stock fancier himself.

Down at Norfolk, Va., the navy is grooming for across the Atlantic flight a dirigible with pontoons which is almost long enough to reach from The Sun office to the front door of the City Hall. It's a whale of an airship, 259 feet long, with a cruising radius of up to 7,000 miles and with all the comforts of a Manhattan apartment.

Young Tommy McCracken, Ensign, U. S. N., is the admiral of this aerial dreadnought, and Ensign Thomas said yesterday at his home, 842 Lafayette avenue, Brooklyn, that he doesn't believe the British have anything classier than U. S. N. North Sea 1, the official designation of the big blimp. He knows something about the merits of the dirigible because he commanded her in North Sea patrol work, work sometimes accomplished in very nasty weather.

She was built for long distance navigation. Ensign McCracken explained, and on the basis of what she has already done he feels confident that she has a chance to win the honor of being the first to make the big crossing. The gas capacity is 352,000 cubic feet. Twelve tanks carrying a total of 1,020 gallons of gasoline carry the fuel and tucked away inside her silvery hide is another tank to supply ninety gallons of water.

"They sent me back from overseas to prepare the ship for a transatlantic flight," said Ensign McCracken yesterday. "I am positive she can cross the ocean not once but many times. She can alight upon the water and can stand a lot of hard usage. She is engaged by two 350-horse-power Fiat and the crew ordinarily consists of four men—the officer in charge, a mate, a radio officer and an engineer. At present there is no hangar big enough to house this big bird of ours."

Gasoline Is Problem. The transatlantic competition moved Frank H. Russell, general manager, of the Curtiss Engineering Corporation of Garden City, to state yesterday that American aeronautical experts find one great problem only in contemplating the long flight, and that problem is gasoline supply.

"The maximum distance to be flown is acknowledged to be 1,500 miles," said Mr. Russell. "Allow 15 per cent. for drift, etc., and we have about 2,000 miles. At 100 miles an hour a 200-horse-power motor would require twenty hours supply of gas. At nine gallons an hour this would be 180 gallons or 1,116 pounds. Three motors could support a flying craft which could carry ample gasoline to reach from Newfoundland to Ireland and which could make the even more difficult return trip against the west to east winds which prevail at practically all times. Boats are now being constructed on both sides of the Atlantic which will meet the requirements of the great journey."

Dirigible Being Groomed at Norfolk Has 7,000 Mile Cruising Radius.

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Record Trip by Non-rigid Aircraft in Gale.

Special Cable Despatch to THE SUN from the London Times Service.

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The trip was characterized by extremely unfavorable weather, and therefore is regarded as ranking as perhaps all aboard it to be severely sick, necessitating relief pilots and coxswains at frequent intervals.

The total length of the round trip was 1,285 air miles, and the time taken was about forty and a half hours.

The airship started from the Fifth of Forth, laying a straight course toward Denmark. There was a northwest wind of fifteen to twenty miles an hour and the night was dark but the airship was only a mile from her course when she passed the Dogger Bank Lighthouse. After passing the lighthouse the velocity of the wind increased and calcium flares were dropped into the sea frequently to determine the location.

The airship's trouble began on the return journey. The wind became stronger and more tempestuous. At midnight one engine became useless and the ship was forced a considerable distance to leeward.

The captain contemplated landing in France, but finally decided to hold on in the hope that the wind would abate. The wind abating somewhat, a "land fall" was made at North Fore (7). At this time the gasoline supply was running low.

The flight was carried out entirely over the sea. It was the longest non-stop overseas voyage ever made by a British aircraft and as far as is known it was a world's record for non-rigid airships.

Four Feet of Snow Fall in New Mexico—Houses Collapse.

EAST LAS VEGAS, N. M., March 22.—This section of the country has been visited by the heaviest snowstorm in years. At Mora four feet of snow have fallen since Thursday night and houses are reported collapsing.

Thirty inches have fallen here in the last forty-eight hours and it is still snowing to-night. Many buildings have collapsed here and electric light and car service is stopped.

Instructions to naval units making up the cruiser and transport service to resume the "daylight saving" schedule of time March 30, were sent out by wireless yesterday from the headquarters of Vice-Admiral Cleave at Hoboken. The orders direct that clocks be set forward one hour at 3 A. M. on that day at all stations and on all vessels of the navy in United States territorial waters.

2,840,000 PIECES OF GUM SENT. U. S. Troops in France Will Get Candles and Popcorn Also.

WASHINGTON, March 22.—Since hostilities ended and the urgent necessity for conserving space on army ships bound for France passed the War Department has been buying large quantities of chewing gum, popcorn, candy, fruit tablets, salted nuts and similar luxuries for the troops.

A statement to-day says that 2,840,000 packages of gum were recently purchased, and 1,150,000 packages each of candies, popcorn and fruit tablets, salted peanuts, salted almonds and wafer rolls to provide for the April needs of the American forces in France.

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